

THIS IS FEMA



For More Information Contact:

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Office of Emergency Information & Public Affairs

ph: 202-646-4600, fx: 202-646-4086

FEMA Information Available
Around The Clock:

FEMA FAX-on-demand: 202-646-FEMA (24 hrs.)
*voice-mail menu, news releases, advisories,
historical data, fact sheets*

INTERNET/WORLD WIDE WEB <http://www.fema.gov>



FEMA

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FEDERAL
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

DISASTER

**It strikes anytime,
anywhere.**

It takes many forms — a hurricane,
an earthquake, a tornado...
a flood, a fire or a hazardous spill...
an act of nature or an act of terrorism.
It builds over days or weeks,
or hits suddenly, without warning.
Every year, millions of Americans
face disaster, and its terrifying
consequences.

FEMA
Helps

The Federal Emergency Management Agency — FEMA

is an independent agency of the federal government, reporting to the President. Since its founding in 1979, FEMA's mission has been clear:

to reduce loss of life and property and protect our nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards, through a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Before, during and after major disaster occurs, FEMA is there, ready to help.

Vision

- A knowledgeable public able to protect themselves, their families, their homes and businesses.
- Structures located out of harm's way and built to withstand the worst.
- Governments and private organizations with plans in place and the resources and training they need.
- Communities capable of recovering and rebuilding after disaster has passed.

The People of FEMA

FEMA has more than 2,600 full-time employees working at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC, at regional and area offices across the country, at the Mount Weather Emergency Assistance Center in Virginia, and at the National Emergency Training Center in Maryland. In a major disaster, as many as 4,000 temporary and reserve employees and volunteers may join the response and recovery team.



FEMA employees partner with state and local officials and the private sector.

Response and Recovery

When it becomes clear that a hurricane or other potentially catastrophic disaster is about to occur, FEMA moves quickly. Equipment, supplies and people are pre-positioned in areas likely to be affected. That way response can begin without delay.

Whenever a disaster strikes with such force that local and state resources are overwhelmed, a state may ask the President for federal assistance. This help is available

from a special fund set up by Congress under the Robert T. Stafford Act. In a Presidentially declared disaster, **FEMA helps** by:

- Assessing the damage and deciding what is needed.
- Making disaster aid available and managing the process of loan and grant application, approval and disbursement.
- Creating and staffing federal/state disaster field offices and coordinating other federal agencies' involvement under the Federal Response Plan.



Disaster recovery centers are often set up in neighborhoods hit hard by a federally-declared disaster

- Keeping the public informed through a FEMA-published newspaper, *The Recovery Times*, through internet postings and through up to 24-hour-a-day broadcasts on *The Recovery Channel* and the *FEMA Radio Network*.
- Identifying opportunities to mitigate future disasters.

Disaster Aid Programs

There are two types of aid:

- **Governmental assistance** — to state or local governments and certain private non-profit organizations, for repair of infrastructure and public facilities and for debris removal.

- **Individual assistance** — to citizens, for damage to residences and businesses or personal property losses.

After a Presidentially declared disaster people can apply for assistance quickly by calling a specially announced toll free number. FEMA may also set up Recovery Centers to assist people. Federal program assistance includes:

- **Housing assistance**, in the form of rental assistance, transient accommodations or funding of limited emergency repairs.
- **Low interest disaster loans** from the Small Business Administration or Farm Service Agency to cover uninsured property losses.
- **Individual and family grants** for serious disaster-related needs, available to those who are unable to repay a loan.
- **Other aid programs**, including crisis counseling, disaster-related unemployment assistance and legal aid.



Multilingual counselors help citizens apply for financial assistance.

Mitigation

Perhaps the most important element of emergency management, mitigation is the day-in, day-out effort to reduce disasters' long-term risk to people and property. FEMA's mitigation team works with government and professional groups and the public to reduce the effects of floods, earthquakes, hurricanes and other hazards.

FEMA helps by:

- Promoting sound building design and construction practices.
- Providing grants for activities that reduce the impact of earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters.
- Educating the public on what to do through training programs, publications, and seminars.



FEMA helps move homes in floodplains to higher ground.

- Helping local communities adopt floodplain ordinances.
- Relocating homes and businesses away from high risk areas, and encouraging property owners to elevate buildings above flood level.
- Creating risk assessment maps to assist local planners with effective community planning.

Preparedness, Training and Exercises

Survival and quick recovery from disaster depend on pre-planning. **FEMA helps** the nation prepare for disaster by:

- Funding emergency planning in all 50 states and the U.S. territories.
- Helping states to design and equip emergency operations centers.
- Training emergency professionals and state and local officials at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute.



The Emergency Management Institute offers more than 300 separate training courses.

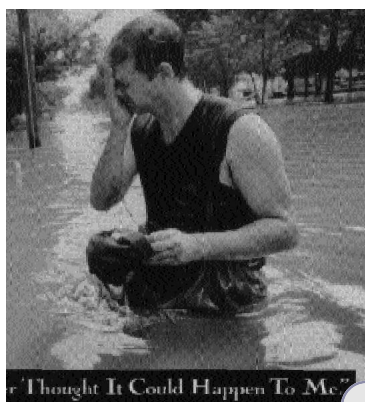
- Developing courses for state and local delivery and offering training by satellite through the Emergency Education Network (EENET).
- Sponsoring exercises that let people work together under conditions similar to a real disaster.
- Coordinating emergency plans and exercises for nuclear power plants through the radiological emergency preparedness program.
- Helping to minimize the risks posed by chemical stockpile emergencies and hazardous materials transport and storage.

Federal Insurance Administration (FIA)

The FIA administers the self-supporting National Flood Insurance Program, which offers federally backed flood insurance coverage to citizens in more than 18,000 participating communities.

FEMA helps flood victims recover by:

- Providing incentives to mitigate flood damage.
- Working in partnership with the insurance industry to sell and service flood insurance policies.
- Working with the nation's lending institutions to protect individual mortgages.



FIA's awareness campaign makes an important point: "We can't replace your memories, but we can help you build new ones."

- Increasing awareness about flood insurance benefits.
- Making flood insurance easier to buy.

United States Fire Administration (USFA)

In the U.S. each year, fire kills about 5,000 people and causes an estimated \$9 billion in property damage. Through the USFA, **FEMA helps** reduce fire deaths and damage by:

- Developing new fire management technologies.
- Training the nation's firefighters and emergency medical professionals through the National Fire Academy.



Firefighters improve their management and response skills at the National Fire Academy.

- Educating the public on how to lower fire risk.
- Working with 32,000 fire departments to collect and analyze national fire statistics.
- Honoring the memory of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. There is a flame always burning at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD.

Crisis and Communication Technologies

In an emergency, with normal systems crippled, emergency teams must quickly set up operations, gather information, and maintain communications. **FEMA helps** by:

- Bringing in mobile communications systems that open emergency lines when commercial phone systems are down.

- Through a special agreement with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, fielding an airborne disaster operations center — a communications-equipped 747 military jet — to allow immediate response following a catastrophe.

- Creating advanced computer models to predict the nature and extent of damage.

Many of the technologies FEMA uses also communicate in non-disaster situations:

- A World Wide Web site (www.fema.gov) provides news to the media, information on disaster assistance, a full library of materials, and global links for the emergency management community.

- The FEMA FAX line offers access to more than 1300 documents. You can receive an index of the documents available by calling (202) 646-FEMA.



Geographic information
systems aid decisionmaking.

Success Through Partnership

The success of America's emergency management system depends on partnership. At its center are FEMA and the many other federal, state and local government agencies who help America prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the effects of disasters. Voluntary organizations and civic groups, along with private industry, also play an important role. But the partnership extends further. At its deepest level, it involves every American.

Here are some ways **you can help**:

- Learn the risks that your community faces — and what you should do if disaster occurs.
- Develop a family preparedness plan.
- Insure your property against flood.
- Take protective steps now — whether it's shoring up your house against flood or buying/making hurricane shutters. Don't wait till it's too late.
- In a disaster, watch out for those such as the elderly or the disabled who may need your help.

If you need more information, you can call your local emergency manager, or call your nearest FEMA regional office.



President Clinton and
Federal Emergency
Management Agency
Director James Lee
Witt are committed to
strengthening FEMA's
reputation as the
very best emergency
management system
in the world.

*"Every American needs to know that
when their safety, their property or
their livelihoods are threatened by
disaster, that the full resources of this
nation will be utilized to protect
them and to help place them on the
road to recovery."*

- President Clinton

FEMA's Regional Offices

Region I:

Massachusetts, Connecticut,
Maine, New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, Vermont
J.W. McCormack Bldg.
Room 442
Boston, MA 02109-4595
617-223-9540 (p)
617-223-9519 (f)

Region II:

New York, New Jersey,
Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
26 Federal Plaza
Room 1337
New York, NY 10278-0002
212-225-7209 (p)
212-225-7281 (f)

Region III:

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware,
Virginia, Washington, DC, West Virginia
Liberty Square Building
2nd Floor
105 S. Seventh Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3316
215-931-5608 (p)
215-931-5714 (f)

Region IV:

Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky,
Mississippi, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Tennessee
1371 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30309-3108
404-853-4200 (p)
404-853-4230 (f)

Region V:

Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan,
Ohio, Wisconsin
175 West Jackson
4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-2698
312-408-5501 (p)
312-408-5234 (f)

Region VI:

Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana,
New Mexico, Oklahoma
Federal Regional Center
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76201-3698
817-898-5399 (p)
817-898-5325 (f)

Region VII:

Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska
2323 Grand Boulevard,
Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64108-2670
816-283-7060 (p)
816-283-7582 (f)

Region VIII:

Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
Denver Federal Center
Building 710
Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267
303-235-4813 (p)
303-235-4976 (f)

Region IX:

California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada,
Pacific Island Trust Territories
Building 105
Presidio of San Francisco, CA
94129-1250
415-923-7100 (p)
415-923-7112 (f)

Region X:

Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon
Federal Regional Center
130 228th Street, S.W.
Bothell, WA 98021-9796
206-487-4607 (p)
206-487-4622 (f)